

Use caution when taking on the king of Utah peaks

By Lynn Arave
Deseret News staff writer

HIGH UINTAS — You're not *king* of the hill in Utah until you've climbed the state's tallest mountain — Kings Peak (13,528 feet above sea level) — where you stand 9,268 feet (almost 1.8 miles) higher than Salt Lake's Temple Square in Utah's *thinnest* air (about 40 percent less oxygen than at sea level).

To set the record straight, this peak was not named on the basis of its premier height. Its namesake was Clarence King, director of the first U.S. Geological Survey team that came through Utah in 1867-71.

Ironically, King himself was never aware of Utah's tallest point since it went undiscovered until 24 years ago. Initial measurements erroneously pegged South Kings peak (about one-half mile south of today's Kings Peak) as Utah's tallest, at only 13,498 feet.

Revised measurements in 1966 using improved technology not only found North Kings Peak (previously unnamed) to be Utah's tallest, but also revised the height of the original Kings Peak to be 14 feet taller — 13,512, solidifying its claim as Utah's second-highest.

Kings Peak is not easy to identify in 1990 either. It has no dominant features and looks drab in comparison to other nearby peaks. Also, since there are 24 other peaks over 13,000 feet in the Uintas (only nine of which are named), Kings Peak blends in.

On top of Kings Peak, a metal plaque describes its namesake. There is also a small pile of rocks, and the peak itself is nothing more than stacked rock slabs. From the top, the view is breathtaking, and even the Wasatch Mountains are visible to the west. (Salt Lake City is almost straight west of Kings Peak, about 88 miles away.)

Late July/August is the most ideal period to hike Utah's tallest peak since the snow usually is gone by then. On a typical August day, as many as 40 climbers may conquer Kings Peak. September also can be a pleasant time, but the nights are much cooler.

Three days is the minimum time possible for a round-trip visit to Kings Peak, and that's rushing it. Four to five days would be more comfortable.

How tough is the Kings Peak hike? It ranks as one of the toughest hiking climbs in Utah. It's a trek for people who



Kings Peak, with its no-frills appearance, is pictured here from just below Anderson Pass.

PHOTOGRAPHY/ LYNN ARAVE

Wyoming 410. Travel 14 miles south to Mountain View. It's 10 more paved miles until the last 22 miles of gravel road (OK for car travel) to Henry's Fork (9,600-foot elevation). Total mileage from Salt Lake City to the trailhead is about 165 miles, or 3½ hours.

Water is available at a spring to the east of Dollar Lake, Schuler said. He reported all the area's trails in good condition and said that camping spots are available throughout Henry's Fork. Other popular lakes in the area include Bear Lake and Henry's Fork Lake. Mosquitoes are plentiful in the area.

(Note: Since one key hiking sign in the middle of Painter Basin has confusing directions, be sure *not* to miss the right turn or you may end up traveling three miles out of the way to Trail Rider Pass.)

The other, more *daring* option to reach Kings Peak is a shortcut up a rock-slide slope, located about one-half mile to the right (west) of Gunsight Pass. (Kings Peak is the mountain that peeks through the top of this opening and looks like a sinking ship.)

This makeshift, three-mile route is very popular because it saves about two hours — one-way travel time — to Anderson Pass. But it's also very dangerous with a steep 1,300-foot climb up loose material.

From Anderson Pass, there's no sign pointing to Kings, but it is the nearest peak (southeast direction). The final half-mile (828-foot altitude gain) is a mountain climb, not a hike (since it requires the use of your hands, too). This section travels upward, across a string of 100 percent rock slabs (some of which are loose) along an unmarkable path.

Climbers should be cautious of their footing because one slip could mean a gash in the leg or arm. Also be aware of incoming storms since lightning danger is severe on the top of Kings Peak (wet rocks would also be slippery). Winds are usually fierce from Anderson Pass upward.

Several narrow points along the way provide breathtaking views with dizzying backdrops to the basins below. It takes as much time to climb back down to Anderson Pass as it does to go up to Kings Peak because of the rugged, uneven terrain.

Horses are very popular in the Henry's Fork area and could make it to Anderson Pass via Painter Basin, but could not travel up the rock slide shortcut nor the final assault up Kings Peak. Taking dogs to Kings Peak is not wise because of the many sharp rocks and cliffs. Motorized vehicles or mountain bicycles are prohibited in the High Uintas Primitive area.

Mild altitude sickness is a possible problem for some hikers, even physically fit individuals, when hiking/camping at 10,000-foot plus altitudes. Headache, nausea, breathing difficulties and sleep disruption are the most common symptoms of this illness. People coming up from very low elevations are especially vulnerable. Don't hike Kings Peak if you feel you have altitude sickness.

Scoreboard

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Baseball

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS									
AMERICAN LEAGUE									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Boston	63	53	.543	—	5-5	Lost 1	36-18	27-35	
Toronto	62	56	.525	2	5-5	Lost 1	32-29	30-27	
Baltimore	56	60	.483	7	3-7	Lost 2	26-26	30-34	
Cleveland	55	62	.470	8½	6-4	Won 1	31-29	24-33	
Detroit	54	65	.454	10½	z-3-7	Lost 2	26-32	28-33	
Milwaukee	50	65	.435	12½	5-5	Won 2	24-32	26-33	
New York	46	70	.397	17	z-4-6	Lost 6	23-29	23-41	
West Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Oakland	75	43	.636	—	z-8-2	Won 1	40-22	35-21	
Chicago	67	47	.588	6	4-6	Won 1	34-26	33-21	
Texas	60	57	.513	14½	z-4-6	Won 1	31-24	29-33	
Seattle	60	58	.508	15	z-4-6	Won 2	32-33	28-25	
California	58	60	.492	17	6-4	Won 3	32-30	26-30	
Kansas City	57	60	.487	17½	7-3	Lost 1	34-28	23-32	
Minnesota	55	62	.470	19½	4-6	Lost 1	29-30	26-32	
NATIONAL LEAGUE									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Pittsburgh	66	49	.574	—	z-4-6	Lost 1	33-23	33-26	
New York	65	49	.570	½	4-6	Lost 2	39-22	26-27	
Montreal	62	54	.534	4½	7-3	Won 7	33-23	29-31	
Chicago	56	61	.479	11	z-6-4	Lost 1	29-31	27-30	
Philadelphia	54	60	.474	11½	3-7	Won 2	28-28	26-32	
St. Louis	54	63	.462	13	z-6-4	Lost 2	27-34	27-29	
West Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Cincinnati	47	67	.411	—	z-8-2	Lost 1	23-30	26-32	

■ Lynn Arave and Wayne Arave hiked to Kings Peak on July 30-Aug. 1.

cern of hikers.

than 30 miles away, safety should always be a prime concern.

Since the nearest telephone from Kings Peak is more at lower elevations.

and extra water (a minimum of five quarts is recommended).

may also help. Altitude sickness will completely disappear

Athletics 6, Red Sox 2											
BOSTON					OAKLAND						
ab	r	h	b	i	ab	r	h	b	i		
JoReed 2b	4	0	1	0	Lansford 3b	4	0	0	0		
Quintan 1b	4	0	2	2	Jennings lf	4	1	0	0		
Boggs 3b	5	0	2	0	DHdsn cf	4	1	0	0		
Burks cf	5	0	0	0	McGwir 1b	4	1	1	4		
Greenwl lf	4	0	0	0	Hassey dh	3	0	1	0		
Evans dh	4	1	1	0	Bknsnp dh	1	1	0	0		
Brnsky rf	4	0	1	0	Jose rf	4	1	2	1		
Marzano c	4	0	1	0	Steinbch c	4	0	0	0		
Rivera ss	3	1	0	0	Weiss ss	4	0	1	1		
Totals	37	2	8	2	Totals	34	6	5	6		
One out when winning run scored.											
E—Rivera. LOB—Boston 8, Oakland 6. 2B—Quintana, Marzano. HR—McGwire (30). SB—Jose (8), Lansford (14). S—Quintana.											
Boston					Oakland						
IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Klecker	6	1	3	4	2	2	5				
Gray	2	2	3	0	0	2	1				
Irvine L, 1-1	1	3	0	3	2	2	0				
Murphy	0	1	1	1	0	0					
Oakland											
Stewart W, 1-8	10	8	2	2	2	5					
Murphy pitched to 1 batter in the 10th.											
HBP—Lansford by Klecker. WP—Irvine.											
BK—Klecker.											
Umpires—Home, Welke; First, Hickox; Second, Coble; Third, Evans.											
T—2:42. A—41,704.											
Angels 8, Yankees 1											
NEW YORK						CALIFORNIA					
ab	r	h	b	i		ab	r	h	b	i	
Kelly cf	3	1	1	0		Dwning dh	4	3	4	3	
Sax 2b	3	0	0	0		DHill 2b	4	1	2	0	
Azocar lf	4	0	1	0		CDavis lf	4	1	1	2	
Balboni dh	4	0	0	0		Bichette rf	1	0	0	0	
JeBrld rf	3	0	0	0		Winfield rf	3	0	2	3	
Maas 1b	3	0	0	1		Venable lf	1	0	0	0	
Totals	20	2	3	1		Totals	20	9	8	6	
Dodgers 3, Mets 2											
LOS ANGELES						NEW YORK					
ab	r	h	b	i		ab	r	h	b	i	
Javier cf	4	1	1	0		Boston cf	4	2	2	0	
Shrpsn 3b	3	1	1	0		Magadh 3b	2	0	1	1	
LHarris 3b	1	0	0	0		Jeffers 2b	4	0	1	1	
Daniels lf	4	1	1	3		Stubbs rf	4	0	0	0	
Totals	13	3	3	3		Totals	14	2	3	2	
Braves 8, Pirates 1											
ATLANTA						PITTSBURGH					
ab	r	h	b	i		ab	r	h	b	i	
LoSmith lf	4	0	2	2		Cangelis cf	4	0	1	0	
Tredwy 2b	4	0	1	0		JBell ss	4	0	0	0	
Gant cf	3	0	0	0		Landrm p	0	0	0	0	
Presley 3b	5	0	0	0		Redus 1b	2	0	0	0	
Lemke 3b	0	0	0	0		Bream 1b	2	0	0	0	
Cabrer 1b	3	1	1	1		Bonilla rf	3	0	1	0	
MBell 1b	2	1	1	0		Bonds lf	4	0	1	0	
Blauser ss	4	2	2	0		King 3b	3	0	0	0	
Justice rf	5	1	3	3		Slaughter c	2	1	1	0	
Olson c	5	2	2	0		Lind 2b	3	0	0	0	
Castillo p	1	0	1	0		Heaton p	2	0	0	0	
Gregg ph	1	0	1	1		Bair p	0	0	0	0	
Parrett p	0	0	0	0		Ross p	0	0	0	0	
OMcDill ph	1	1	1	0		Bellard ss	1	0	0	0	
Mercker p	0	0	0	0		Totals	38	8	15	7	
Totals	38	8	15	7		Totals	30	1	4	0	
Phillies 6, Giants 0											
SANFRAN						PHILA					
ab	r	h	b	i		ab	r	h	b	i	
Parker cf	3	0	0	0		Dykstra cf	4	1	1	1	
Andrsn 2b	3	0	0	0		Daulton c	3	2	1	2	
Downs p	0	0	0	0		VHayes lf	2	0	0	0	
WClark 1b	3	0	0	0		Murphy rf	4	0	0	0	
Mitchell lf	3	0	0	0		Kruk 1b	4	1	2	1	
MWlms 3b	3	0	0	0		Herr 2b	3	1	1	0	
Lifton rf	3	0	0	0		CHayes 3b	4	0	1	1	
Kennedy c	2	0	0	0		Thon ss	4	1	1	0	
Bathe ph	1	0	0	0		Muhlind p	3	0	1	1	
Uribe ss	3	0	0	0		Totals	31	6	8	6	
Robinsn p	2	0	0	0							
Kingery cf	0	0	0	0							
GCartr ph	1	0	0	0							
Totals	27	0	0	0							
SHOWDOWN CLASSIC											
Results Wednesday from the Showdown Classic at Jeremy Ranch.											
Individual											
C. Coody	67										
B. Befley	69										
B. Gadh	69										
B. Erickson	69										
M. Hill	69										
D. Rhyan	69										
A. Bardha	69										
G. Lanning	70										
D. Henrickson	70										
L. Trevino	70										
J. Ferree	70										
T. Aaron	70										
T. Dill	70										
Team											
A. Kelley	52										
C. Mehok	53										
R. McBee	53										
M. Hill	53										
C. Coody	54										
B. Baird	54										
J. Ferree	54										
B. Befley	55										
D. Peacock	56										
L. Trevino	56										
D. Massengale	56										
D. Simon	56										
P. Rodgers	56										
J.P. Cain	56										
K. Still	56										
L. Braham	56										
A. Bardha	56										
J. Brodie	56										
B. Vancey	56										
PIONEER LEAGUE STANDINGS											
Northern Division											
	W	L	Pct.	GB							
Great Falls	38	17	.691	—							
Billings	27	26	.509	10							
Helena	24	27	.471	12							
Medicine Hat	20	32	.385	16½							
Southern Division											
	W	L	Pct.	GB							
Butte	32	21	.604	—							
Salt Lake	32	23	.582	1							
Idaho Falls	29	25	.537	3½							
Gate City	12	43	.218	21							
Wednesday's results											
Helena 7, Billings 1											
Butte 6, Gate City 3											
Idaho Falls 10, Salt Lake 3											
Great Falls 3, Medicine Hat 1											

On TV, radio

THURSDAY TV	
1:00 p.m.	(TBS) BASEBALL Braves at Pirates
3:00 p.m.	(ESPN) GOLF The International, First Round
5:30 p.m.	(ESPN) BOWLING LaMode Classic
7:00 p.m.	(ESPN) BOXING Steve Collins vs. Fermin Chirino
10:35 p.m.	(2) GOLF Senior PGA Showdown Classic Preview, from The Jeremy Ranch Golf Club, Park City, Utah (Taped)